Lignite-cum-power project in Rajasthan

344. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) has failed to implement the Barsingsar (Rajasthan) lignite-cum-power project even after lapse of about 14 years;

(b) if so, whether Government have identified the factor responsible for failure of NLC in implementing the project; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to implement the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) No Sir. The Lignite-Cum-Power-Project at Barsingsar, Rajasthan has been sanctioned by Government of India on 15.12.2004. The project would be commissioned in December, 2008 as per the sanction.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of Answer given to (a) above.

Approval of new coal mining project

345. SHRI EKANATH K.THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have directed the Ministry of Coal to expedite the approval of new mining projects in view of the acute shortage of coal by the power, cement and steel industries;

(b) whether it is also a fact that currently there is a gap of about 27 million tonnes between the demand and supply of coal; and

(c) if so, the steps Ministry proposes to take to start new mining projects at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes Sir. Ministry of Coal have taken appropriate steps to expedite the approval of new mining projects in view of increased projected demand.